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WALKING IN THE PARK













Chapter 1 by Matt Kopcho

Anna was walking in the park when she heard a loud bang. She looked all around to see where the load noise came from.

Chapter 2 by Da'Najah



Nothing. She continued through the dog park with her friend Chris.

"Did you hear that?" She asked him

"Hear what?" He replied

"Nothing."

"Are you ok? Maybe we just need to stop for a break."

"No I'm fine." She said. Anna had the biggest crush on Chris and she didn't want to seem weak even though she really needed a break. Then she heard the noise again.

Chapter 3 by Kitiδn



It began to rain as they reached the edge of the park. In the far distance a fading orange umbrella hovering over a gray silhouette flickered & vanished from sight. They waited at the crossing as the rain distorted the reflection of the traffic lights spread accross the road before them. Dissolving cigarette filters glided past like sail boats, and a passing thought was the only traffic on the sodium lit street tonight. The growing storm embraced them, as lighting spat it's scorn at Anna's weakness.

Chapter 4 by jade winter



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Chapter 5 by Yuliya Sabalevich



All the windows were dark and lifeless indicating that Charlie wasn't at home. However, the garden lamps towering above the fairly low fence were gently shining as if offering a shelter.

"We can still come in," said Anna. "I have spare keys to Charlie's house. His sister left them in my house last weekend."

Chris nodded his agreement and opened the front garden gate. The guys wanted to reach the house door as soon as possible as it was raining pitchfork.

However, they stopped dead when the gate closed behind them. The horrible mess reigned in the front garden. Almost all the trees and bushes were uprooted, the flowers were trampled down, several sections of the fence were brought down... In a word, the garden – Charlie's pride and joy – was completely ruined. Everything looked miserable and lifeless. Everything except for the gray silhouette near the house corner. The gray silhouette under the orange umbrella that rounded the house corner and disappeared from sight before Anna was able to come to her senses.

Chapter 6 by intellikat



Bang.

"Anna?"

Chris was gently shaking her by the shoulder. She blinked. The weakness she had felt before had returned, redoubling its impact. She needed to sit, she needed to breathe. Somewhere, but not here-- out in the cold. But not there, in Charlie's deserted house, either. Not with the spectre with the orange umbrella she knew too well.

"Anna?"

Anna turned. "Chris. Did you hear that noise?"

"Anna, I'm worried about you." Chris was searching her face carefully.

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Anna paused for a moment, then lifted the key from the inside of her coat.

Chapter 7 by Flat Soda



Chris took the key gently with both hands, but made sure that Anna was safely resting against a portion of fence that still stood among the wreckage, the sole surviving witness to the garden's destruction. Chris slowly made his way to the door, carefully avoiding the clumps of soil and once-beautiful plants that lay strewn all over the remains of Charlie's garden. The door unlocked smoothly at the turning of the key, with a barely audible **click**. Chris pushed open the door and reflexively stood back, as though he could sense something unnatural within the house.

"Anna, you really should tell Charlie to get some air freshener."

A dense, cloying stench hit Chris as soon as he opened the door, and for a moment Chris had to look away to compose himself. Looking into the house, Chris noticed nothing out of the ordinary about the hall, or the dining room off to the side of the main entrance. His eyes swept across the view into the house multiple times though to make sure there was nothing to be feel threatened by. Stepping onto the welcome mat inside, his foot brushed against cloth. Chris looked down and immediately pushed himself against the door frame behind him, in an uncharacteristic gesture of fear. There on the floor, slumped against the wall next to the door, was Charlie, his eyes closed and a two-thirds of a cheap candlestick lying across his lap and his limp, open hand. Chris looked out at Anna, now mostly recovered and starting to stand up, and knew that whatever the reason for the garden's devastation and Charlie's state, Anna and Chris could could not linger at Charlie's house. Chris walked back quickly to the rain and to Anna, leaving the stench of death in the house behind him.

Chapter 8 by Kitiδn



Bang.

Anna correspond C nainted towards the anan dearway of Charliele house I salk leak she

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Chris was fast becoming mentally exhausted, and just wanted them to egt as far away as possible from this place.

The rain & wind lashed at them from all directions, and Anna kept pushing Chris towards the open doorway.

Anna we have to leave this place Chris insisted, and we can find somewhere to call the police.

Anna pleaded with Chris to go in and see if there were signs of anybody their.

Chris reluctantly & cautiously started to cross the threshold of the doorway, and just as he was nearly inside something struck the back of his head, and he feel face down onto the floor.

Chris started to pull himself up on to his knees, but then another shuddering shock-wave of pain hit him from behind. Blood started to dribble over his forehead, and when he tried to lift his head the blood went into his eyes & affected his vision.

He heard the door slam shut & Anna screaming for help. His ankles were being lifted & now being dragged down the corridor, and the screams of Anna were intensifying so much so, that he felt a trickle of adrenaline that allowed him to kick out & catch the person dragging him of balance. There was a thud and a vase was knocked over in the process, and Anna let out a blood curdling scream with thunder as a backdrop,

Chris managed to twist his body around & wipe some blood from his eyes, and at that exact moment saw a hand lunging towards him hold a shard of broken vase. Anna was screaming uncontrollably as she sank the shard into the side of Chris's cheek, and was about to do it again until Chris just caught her wrist in time.

Anna was flung to the side & her head took a hard hit on the floor, which stunned her momentarily allowing Chris to try get up. He tried to make for the door, but again a shock-wave of pain resonated through his body, and Anna was upon him again trying to stab him. Chris again caught her off balance and managed to place some weight on her and all the time Anna

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his face & cursed him, and when Chris manage to muster the simple word why, she mocked him & then said your all the fucking same.

The anger in Chris began to rise at this reply, and he shouted out why he or Charlie deserved this, and she screamed back in hatred & said because life is like a walk in the park for you, and my life never being loved.

the end

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